ROTHERHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

OXLEY & COWARD,

Clerks.

H. GARNETT AND CO., LTD., PRINTERS, ETC., ROTHERHAM.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30043049

Rotherham Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year ending 31st December, 1900, 310 deaths occurred in your district, of these 165 were males and 145 females.

The births numbered 621, 291 being males and 330 females.

Estimating the population at 20,000, the death-rate per 1000 per annum is 15.5 and the birth-rate 31.05. The death-rate is moderately low, and should the coming census prove that the population is in excess of the estimate taken, the death-rate would be still lower. The same would apply to the birth-rate.

The birth-rate of 31 per 1000 is high, 28.9 per 1000 per annum being the birth-rate for England and Wales.

Zymotic Disease.—During the year, 1900, the notifiable zymotic diseases have considerably increased, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and measles have existed in epidemic form, and enteric fever shows an excess of 13 cases as compared with last year. In all 263 cases of zymotic disease have been notified, of these 189 were due to scarlet fever, 34 to diphtheria, 21 to enteric, one to puerperal, and 18 to erysipelas. 37 deaths occurred from all varieties of zymotic disease, and are as follows:—10 were due to scarlet fever, 9 to diphtheria, 4 to enteric, 1 to puerperal, 8 to measles, and 3 to whooping cough.

Scarlet fever has been reported from almost every village in the district.

Diphtheria has occurred in the villages of Harley, Tinsley, Ravenfield, Aughton, Catcliffe, Hoodhill, and Wentworth. Typhoid fever occurred in the villages of Wickersley, Tinsley, Treeton, Orgreave, Brampton Bierlow, Woodhouse Mill, Brinsworth, Whiston,

Catcliffe, and Wentworth. All cases occurring in the villages mentioned have been visited, and when sanitary defects have been discovered, they have been reported on and remedied as far as possible. Owing to epidemics of measles, schools have been closed at Ravenfield, Dalton Parva, Harley, Wentworth Barrow, Whiston, Canklow, Swallownest, Aston, Fence, Aughton, and Maltby.

This large increase in zymotic disease is not altogether unaccountable. Many of the villages are very old, and have imperfect sanitary arrangements. The coal industry, which during the past year has been brisk, has brought into the district many new inhabitants. A considerable amount of overcrowding is the result. The open spaces about many of the houses are deficient, and the yards and occupation roads are often unpaved. The general cleanliness of the surroundings of the houses is neglected. This applies to the villages of Catcliffe, Treeton, Whiston, Aughton, Swallownest, North Staveley, Harley and Whinney Hill.

Many new houses are in course of erection, and the improvement of the health of the district in the future, lays to a large extent in the hands of the Surveyor, who should be careful that the plans presented comply with modern sanitary requirements.

Sewerage works are in course of construction at Tinsley, Swallownest, and North Staveley. Colonel Ducat's bacteria bed is being constructed at Hadfield's Works, Tinsley; in the other cases the magnetite system is being employed. This system is in use at Canklow and works well.

The infant mortality of the district is 100 deaths under one year out of 621 births.

This is very high, and can only be accounted for by improper feeding, overcrowding, want of cleanliness, and the damp and insanitary condition of some houses and yards in the district.

Probably the most fruitful source of zymotic disease, such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, and in some cases of typhoid fever, is the privy-midden system. The ashpits are often neglected, and allowed to overflow. The dust is blown about, whilst the stench from decomposing animal and vegetable matter is almost unbearable. I have frequently called attention to this in your district, also that many ashpits are open, in others that the roof is defective, in others that they are leaky, and in others that they are without doors. This neglect of removal of night-soil and ashes has occurred in the villages of Treeton, Catcliffe, Wentworth, Harley, Thorpe Hesley, and Whinney Hill.

The removal of night-soil and ashes is at present undertaken by contract, by owners, and by occupiers.

I wish to impress strongly upon the Council the advisability of taking this work into their own hands, and I am convinced that the general health of your district would be thereby greatly improved.

NUISANCES SHORTLY REPORTED ON AND RESULTS.

January.—Sewage from row of houses in Brinsworth Lane, Catcliffe, flowing over the Rotherham Road. This was drained.

March.—Special report on houses at Wharfes Row. Owners have repaired houses; fowl pens, etc., have been removed; new closets have not been erected.

April.—Leedham's Well, Sitwell Grange Farm, condemned; 2-inch pipe advised to be laid on from the Rotherham Main. This has not been done at present.

Sewage from Station-master's house, Treeton, flows into railway cutting. Not attended to. Scarlet fever at cottage of Colonel Winder, at Hooton Levitt; house drain defective. Correspondence.

May.—Cockholme Hill, Treeton, and farm adjoining. Sewage flows over a field into the railway cutting. This has not been remedied. Drainage defective at Post Office, Treeton. This has been remedied.

June.—Anthrax in animal at Dalton Parva. Carcase burned and sheds whitewashed.

July.—Overcrowding in house at Atlas Street, Canklow. This was attended to.

August.—Drainage at Aughton Hospital defective. A new tank was made.

Hamper of cherries seized at Aughton. These were being offered for sale. Being in a decomposing condition they were condemned. Closets inspected at Edgar Allen and Co.'s Works, Tinsley. Found in good condition.

September.—Diphtheria at Schoolmaster's house, Catcliffe. House sink drain defective. This was remedied.

School Closets.—Water system was put in.

October.—Typhoid at Sorby's Houses, Orgreave. House drain and midden defective. Notice ordered to be served on owner. These defects have been remedied. Cess pool at Ulley Reservoir House overflowing and running down by the side of the Rotherham Road into the brook at Packman's Bridge. This was cleaned out and nuisance abated.

Barnsley Road, Thorpe Hesley. Water condemned. Privy middens in bad condition. Nothing has been done.

Scarlet fever in Whittaker's Yard, Wentworth. Well water bad. Well has not been closed.

November.—Diphtheria and scarlet fever at Tuxford's house allotments, Whiston. Gully found defective, sewage overflowing into the well. This was remedied.

New houses at Tinsley. Night-soil was used to raise the ground in front of the houses. This was ordered to be removed. The order has been carried out.

Allott's house, Hoodhill. Recurrence of diphtheria, owing to disinfection being imperfectly carried out.

Overcrowding reported at Wickersley. This was attended to.

December.—Diphtheria epidemic at Harley. Ashpits and house drains in bad condition, occupation road and yards unpaved. Some of the ashpits have been emptied, but nothing else has been done.

The water supply of the district is by Sheffield water, by reservoirs, and by wells. The general supply of the district is fairly good. Whiston, Wickersley, and Bramley, are in urgent need of pure water.

METHOD OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notification of infectious disease carried out in your district has been of the greatest value. The cases have been visited, and when possible removed to the Isolation Hospitals.

Out of 263 cases notified, 126 were removed to Hospital, only seven deaths resulting. The temporary hospitals at Aughton and Hoober have done good work, and during the past eight months have been very full.

The accommodation provided for the nursing staff has been very deficient. I reported specially on this question at Aughton Hospital, advising increased accommodation, but taking in view the temporary character of the hospital my advice was rejected.

Disinfection has been imperfectly carried out in your district, being in most cases left to the occupants of the houses, which is almost useless. Latterly a man has been appointed to deal with this question, and we may hope to have better results.

A new ambulance has been provided, and the objection to removal to the Isolation Hospital much lessened.

I am glad to report that the district has been free from small-pox during the year. Under the present condition of domiciliary vaccination and the use of calf lymph, much less objection to vaccination exists than formerly. It is a question whether the protection at present afforded is as efficient as it should be, owing to the action of some practitioners, who are willing to put on one vesicle for a trifling fee. I think that the wording of the vaccination certificate should be such, that both public and private vaccinators must put on a specified number of vesicles. This would undoubtedly much increase the protection of the general public.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. C. COOPLAND,

Deputy for L. J. Weatherbe, M.O.H.

TABLE I.

Area, Population, Births, and Deaths.

Sanitary District.	Medical Officer of Health.	Area Acres.	Estimated Population.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			Annual Rate per 1000 of Estimated Population.					Infant Mortality Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Phthisis Rate.	Respiratory Rate.	
Rotherham Rural	L. J. Weatherbe	35,274	20,000	291	330	621	165	145	310	31 05	15·5	1·85	·405	3·0	161·03

TABLE II.

Deaths at certain Ages and from certain Specified Causes.

Sanitary District.	Deaths at Subjoined Ages.						Deaths from Subjoined Causes.															Deaths in Isolation Hospital.				
	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 60 years.	65 and upwards.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric.	Accidental.	Total.
Rotherham Rural	100	58	24	11	66	51	...	10	9	...	...	4	1	2	8	3	8	9	60	10	15	2	3	2	1	8

TABLE III.

Notification, Isolation, and Adoptive Acts.

Sanitary District.	Isolation Hospitals.	Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.	Public Health Acts—Amendment Act.	Regulation adopted under D.C.M. Order.	Public Scavenging.	Cases Notified or Ascertained.						Cases Removed to Hospital.						Total.
												Aughton.			Hoober.			
						Scarlet.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Total.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet.	Enteric.	Diphtheria	Scarlet.	Enteric.	
Rotherham Rural.	Aughton & Hoober.	Yes.	Part 3.	Yes.	No.	189	34	21	1	18	263	4	96	6	7	6	7	126